

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A law enforcement vehicle comprising:
 - a camera mounted on the law enforcement vehicle, the camera configured to identify a license plate on a vehicle, the camera further configured to identify additional information related to the vehicle displaying the license plate, and to provide an output signal indicative of the identified license plate and the vehicle;
 - a processor configured to receive a signal from the camera indicative of the identified license plate, and to compare the received signal with a list of ~~stolen~~-vehicle license plates, the processor further configured to compare the information on the vehicle with the identified license plate with the image provided by the camera;
 - a storage device coupled to the processor, the storage device configured to provide to the processor the list of ~~stolen~~-vehicle license plates, and information related to the vehicle associated with the license plate; and
 - an output device configured to provide an output detectable by a law enforcement officer indicating that a detected license plate matches a license plate in the list of ~~stolen~~ vehicle license plates or a discrepancy between the identified license plate and the identified vehicle information was found.
2. (original) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 wherein the camera is configured to identify the license plate on the vehicle while the law enforcement vehicle is in motion.
3. (currently amended) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 wherein the storage device is further configured to store an image of the vehicle and the license plate of any license plate that matches a license plate in the list of ~~stolen~~-vehicle license plates.
4. (original) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 wherein the output device provides detailed information related to the identified license plate.

5. (original) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 wherein the output device provides an audible signal to the law enforcement officer.

6. (original) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 4 wherein the output device further provides an audible signal to the law enforcement officer.

7. (currently amended) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 further comprising:

a radio transmitter configured to transmit to a central location a signal indicating that the law enforcement vehicle has detected a license plate in the list of ~~stolen~~-vehicle license plates.

8. (currently amended) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 wherein the storage device is further configured to receive an updated list of ~~stolen~~-vehicle license plates.

9. (original) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1:

wherein the camera is configured to provide a description of the vehicle identified to the processor;

wherein the storage device is further configured to provide to the processor information on the vehicle associated with the identified license plate;

wherein the processor is further configured to compare the information on the vehicle with the identified license plate with the image provided by the camera; and

wherein the output device is further configured to provide the output signal if the information provided does not match the image.

10. (currently amended) The law enforcement vehicle of claim 1 further comprising:

a plurality of cameras mounted to the law enforcement vehicle, each of the cameras configured to identify a license plate on a vehicle, each of the plurality of cameras providing a signal to the processor indicative of an identified license plate;

wherein the processor is configured to process the signal from each of the plurality of cameras, and to compare each signal with the list of stolen vehicle license plates, and associated information related to the identified license plate.

11. (currently amended) A method of identifying from a law enforcement vehicle, a vehicle, comprising the steps of:

capturing an image of the vehicle with at least one camera;

identifying from the image a license plate area;

obtaining additional information related to the vehicle from the captured image;

determining a character set representative of a license plate number;

comparing the determined character set with a database of license plate numbers, wherein the database of license plate numbers includes information related to the vehicle assigned the license plate number; and

providing an output indicating that a match is found between the character set and the database.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

providing an output indicating that a match is not found in the database.

13. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

storing a copy of the image in a database of captured images.

14. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

updating the database of license plate numbers from a central database.

15. (original) The method of claim of claim 11 wherein the database of license plates contains license plates associated with stolen vehicles, and wherein the providing step provides output indicating that the identified license plate is to a stolen vehicle.

16. (original) The method of claim 11 wherein capturing the image captures the image while the law enforcement vehicle is in motion.

17. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

transmitting from the law enforcement vehicle to a central station information related to an identified vehicle that matches a license plate in the database of license plates.

18. (new) The method of claim 11 wherein the database of license plates contains license plates associated with stolen license plates, and wherein the providing step provides output indicated that the identified license plate is stolen.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein the information related to the vehicle assigned the license plate includes color, make, model and expiration date of the license plate.

20. (new) A vehicle comprising:

a camera mounted on the vehicle, the camera configured to identify a license plate on a vehicle, the camera further configured to identify additional information related to the vehicle displaying the license plate, and to provide an output signal indicative of the identified license plate and the vehicle;

a processor configured to receive a signal from the camera indicative of the identified license plate, and to compare the received signal with a list of vehicle license plates, the processor further configured to compare the information on the vehicle with the identified license plate with the image provided by the camera;

a storage device coupled to the processor, the storage device configured to provide to the processor the list of vehicle license plates, and information related to the vehicle associated with the license plate; and

an output device configured to provide an output detectable by a law enforcement officer

indicating that a detected license plate matches a license plate in the list of vehicle license plates or a discrepancy between the identified license plate and the identified vehicle information was found.